21. An image processing system according to Claim 13, wherein said interface section connects to a computer or a facsimile apparatus.--

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 through 21 remain pending in the application. Claims 1, 7, and 13 have been amended to even more succinctly define the invention and/or to improve their form. Claims 19 through 21 have been added to accord Applicant an additional scope of protection commensurate with the disclosure. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. Claims 1, 7, and 13 are the only independent claims present in the application.

Claims 1 through 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,422,743 (Farrell, et al.). The rejection respectfully is traversed.

Claim 1 calls for an image input and output method in which image data is input from at least one image input section including at least one of an interface section for connecting to an external device and a reader section and the input image data is output to at least one image output section, including a printer section. The method comprises the steps of: dividing image processing of one image processing unit to be performed into an image input job in which image data is input from the image input section and into an image output job in which image data is output to the image output section; managing

execution of the image input job and execution of the image output job independently; and

after a preceding image input job is finished, starting a subsequent image input job before

the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input job is finished.

Claim 7 calls for an image input and output apparatus including input means

for inputting image data from at least one image input section including at least one of an

interface section for connecting an external device and a reader section; output means for

outputting image data to at least one image output section including a printer section;

obtaining means for obtaining image processing parameters which regulate image

processing of one image processing unit to be performed; and controlling means for

controlling an input of image data and an output of image data according to the image

processing parameter obtained by said obtaining means. The controlling means performs

in accordance with the method of Claim 1.

Claim 13 calls for an image processing system in which image data input by

at least one image input means, including at least one of an interface section for connecting

to an external device and a reader means, is output by at least one image output means,

including a printer means, including obtaining means for obtaining image processing

parameters which regulate image processing of one image processing unit to be performed;

and controlling means for controlling an input of image data and output of image data

according to the image processing parameter obtained by said obtaining means. The

controlling means performs in accordance with Claim 1.

As understood, Farrell, et al. discloses a method using document defect

repair ("DDR") templates, which are applied to a processor 25. The DDR templates are

schematically illustrated in Fig. 1. Following processing, the data may be either (1)

restored to main memory 56, (2) sent to user interface 52 for display on touch screen 62, or (3) sent to an image output controller. See column 5, lines 1 through 7.
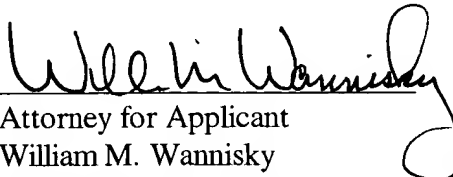
It is respectfully submitted that Farrell, et al. does not disclose or suggest a method and/or apparatus including the features of (1) dividing image processing into an image input job and an image output job, (2) independently managing the divided image input job and the image output job, and (3) after a preceding image input job is finished, starting a subsequent image input job before the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input job is finished. Accordingly, Farrell, et al. does not anticipate the claimed invention.

Claims 2 through 6, 8 through 12, and 14 through 21 depend either directly or indirectly from any one of Claims 1, 7, and 13 and are allowable by virtue of their dependency and in their own right for further defining Applicant's invention. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all claims in the application are now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1. (Amended) An image input and output method in which image data is input from at least one image input section <u>including at least one of an interface section for connecting to an external device and a reader section</u> and the input image data is output to at least one image output section, <u>including a printer section,</u> <u>said method</u> comprising the steps of:

dividing image processing of one image processing unit to be performed into an image input job in which image data is input from the image input section and into an image output job in which image data is output to the image output section;

<u>managing</u> [controlling] execution of the image input job and execution of the image output job independently; and

after a preceding image input job is finished, starting a subsequent image input job before the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input job is finished.

7. (Amended) An image input and output apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting image data from at least one image input section <u>including at least one of an interface section for connecting to an external device and a reader section;</u>

output means for outputting image data to at least one image output section

including a printer section;

obtaining means for obtaining image processing parameters which regulate

image processing of one image processing unit to be performed; and

controlling means for controlling an input of image data and an output of

image data according to the image processing parameter obtained by said obtaining means;

wherein said controlling means:

(i) divides the image processing of the one image unit processing

unit expressed by the image processing parameters obtained by the obtaining means into an

image input job in which image data is input by said image input means and an image

output job in which image data is output by said output means;

(ii) manages [controls] execution of the image input job and

execution of the image output job independently; and

(iii) after a preceding image input job is finished, starts a subsequent

image input job before the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input

job is finished.

13. (Amended) An image processing system in which image data input by

at least one image input means, including at least one of an interface section for connecting

to an external device and a reader means, is output by at least one image output means,

including a printer means, comprising:

-ii-

obtaining means for obtaining image processing parameters which regulate

image processing of one image processing unit to be performed; and

controlling means for controlling an input of image data and output of

image data according to the image processing parameter obtained by said obtaining means;

wherein said controlling means:

(i) divides the image process of the one image processing unit

expressed by the image processing parameters obtained by the obtaining means into an

image input job in which image data is input by the image input means and an image

output job in which image data is output by said output means;

(ii) <u>manages</u> [controls] execution of the image input job and

execution of the image output job independently; and

(iii) after a preceding image input job is finished, starts a subsequent

image input job before the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input

job is finished.